

# The Cunningham Courier

"The only newspaper in the world  
that cares about Cunningham, Kansas"

November 7, 2024  
Volume 34 Number 45

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(620) 298-2659

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## Eagles Return for Year Number Six

This is our sixth year of having eagles nest near our home. The first year they were there, the birds were young eagles with brown heads, the sign of immature eagles. They spent that winter building a nest, but they were too immature to reproduce.

The second year they both had white heads and were considered to be adults, and they continued to work on their nest. That was the year the wind towers were being built and a wildlife biologist spent several months watching the eagles every day with a spotting scope, making sure the construction was not disturbing the pair. The eagle did not succeed in raising an eaglet that year.

Year three found the eagles continuing to enlarge and improve their nest. By now the nest was very large and looked extremely heavy. Since it was depending on a tall dead tree to support it, high winds were becoming a real worry! We just kept telling ourselves Mother Nature knows best. They successfully raised one chick that year.

Year four arrived and the nest continued to grow. The birds carried large sticks, grass and even barbed wire up to the nest with their talons. The eaglet that was born that year was growing but was not ready to fly yet.

The Wildlife and Parks Department were very interested in the pair and brought a drone out to fly over the nest

and take pictures. The pictures were transferred to an iPad for us to see. We could see, in the nest, the carcass of a goose and the carcass of a fish, also there were the remains of an egg that had not hatched.

A few days later we had a big wind and hailstorm that damaged roofs and outbuildings. Our worry about the nest had not been unfounded, it blew down and the baby chick was killed. Needless to say, we had become very attached to the eagles, and we were heartbroken and worried the eagles might not choose to rebuild in our pasture.

That brings us to year five and to our relief the eagles did find a tree nearby and started building a new nest. We took armloads of sticks from their destroyed nest and laid them out, not sure if they would use them, but they did! They successfully raised one young eagle last year.

Now it is year six and we continue to watch the eagles and look for them each day. We cove the cattle and unroll hay right beneath their nest tree and they don't pay any attention to us. They have provided us with a lot of enjoyment, and hopefully, they will for years to come.

photo and story submitted by  
Pam and Doug Liebl

## Cunningham Public Library's "Dinner and a Show" Fundraiser Held

While Bob and Mary Stackhouse were watching a Wichita Community theater production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," Mary was thinking (and Bob said aloud during intermission), "We can do that!" Mary figured if Bob was game, then it could come together. All they needed was an opportunity.

Enter the Cunningham Public Library's fall fundraiser.

The library board, Rogene Jarmer, Linda Kerschen, Liz Miller, Ingrid Ricke, Cecile Sterneker, Jana Theis, and Mary, began brainstorming how to create an event that would bring the community together for "dinner and a show" with prizes to boot. Mary ordered play scripts and soon found friends and colleagues to play the parts, including Cindy Panek, who agreed to help with scene transitions at the piano with her carefully chosen collection of tunes. Mary organized and directed the prac-

tices, (since the lines were read live, no memorization was needed), found items for sound effects, and created a set with help from Bob. Wayne and Rogene Jarmer volunteered their talents for the meal, with board members, the librarian and other community volunteers pitching in. Several on the library board organized and carried out a thorough cleaning at the Community Center, which earned them their angel wings! Rogene, Jana, Ingrid, Cecile, Liz, Linda and Mary donated their time and raffle prizes as did Kerri and Dave Steffen. Rogene prepared a wonderful fall basket of baked goods and fall gifts for the raffle and Jana created a similar Christmas-themed basket to add to the drawing. Jane Meyers, who served the library for many years as a volunteer librarian and board member generously crafted and donated a quilted Christmas tree wall hanging. The Cunningham Courier ran stories about the event and several took flyers around town and helped get the word out through social media.

On Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the scene was set, the players were prepared,

sound effects were nearly mastered, and the meal was ready to serve. After the meal, Cindy Panek warmed up the crowd with some Christmas tunes, then the players (musically) announced the lucky winners of several raffle prizes: Cozy's Pizza gift certificate went to Cindy Panek. Shirley Raney was the winner of the Rusty Rose Flower Shop gift certificate, and Mark Becker won the gift certificate to Main Street Chop Shop.

After those announcements, "It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play" adapted by Joe Landry and produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. ([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)) was underway. Making up the Cast of Characters were: Cody Dunlap reading Clarence, Tommy, Charlie, Dr. Campbell, Sam Wainwright, and Mr. Welch; John Huffman read for Stage Manager, Bert, Harry, Ed, Binky, Cop, and Sheriff; Eric Kerschen read George Bailey and Young George; Nicole Kerschen read Mary Hatch Bailey and Young Mary; Amanda Prim read Violet Bick, Young Violet, Janie, and Matilda; Bob Stackhouse read Announcer, Joseph, Nick, Old Man Collins, Peter, Ernie, and Bridge Keeper; Mary Stackhouse read Zuzu, Mrs. Hatch, Ruth Dakin Bailey, Mrs. Thompson, and Teller; Dave Steffen read Henry F. Potter and Uncle Billy; Kerri Steffen read Rose Bailey and handled sound effects. Featured at the piano was Cindy Panek.

There were a couple of glitches during the show,

but judging by the laughter in the room, no one seemed to mind. It appeared the show, like the meal, was a hit. And for the finale, the cast announced the remaining raffle prizes: Reflections of Home, a print by artist Darren Parker went to Jeanette Kerschen, Ninnescah - Clear Water, a print by artist Darren Parker went to Johnna Freund. Jason Freund was the winner of the Christmas Basket. Shirley Raney won the Fall Basket, and Wayne Jarmer won the Holiday wall hanging.

Special thanks go to Cunningham Schools for the sound system, Cunningham Schools drama department—Mrs. Huelskamp, Cunningham Schools music department—Mr. and Mrs. Kerschen, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, Ninnescah Valley Bank, Marilyn Smiley, Tom Smiley, Chuck and Helen Holcomb, The Cunningham Courier—Roberta Kobbe, Maria Oak and Ruth Shelman for adding to the meal, City of Cunningham/Community Center Committee; all who donated prizes, all who helped with the event preparations and post clean-up, Cast members and their families and all who gave so generously for the raffle and the meal. Your donations will help the library continue to provide community programs like this and more.

Upcoming community events include:

Nov. 9: Penalosa UMC Soup Sampling from 5 - 7 at Penalosa Community Center.

Nov. 9 : CHS Play, The Alibis at 7:00

Nov. 24: Community Thanksgiving Service 6 p.m. at the Community Center.

December 1: Caroling at the Gazebo

December 14th: Christmas in Cunningham/Santa Claus Day

(More photos on page 12)



Kerri Steffen photo

The audience enjoying the show.

**KINGMAN**  
HEALTHCARE CENTER

## SWING BED PROGRAM

For more info, call  
620-553-4192

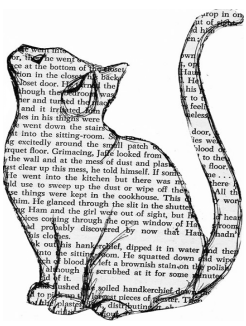
**WHAT DOES SWING BED MEAN?**  
Swing Bed Services serve as a transitional phase between the hospital and home, offering patients the necessary ongoing care following an illness, injury, or surgery. Our dedicated staff provides on-site care, 24 hours a day, to support patients in achieving their recovery objectives and ensuring a safe return home.

**WHY DO PATIENTS NEED SWING BED?**  
Swing Bed Services can help patients who no longer need acute inpatient care, but need the following before returning home safely:

- Long-term IV antibiotics
- Wound care
- Rehabilitation after surgery
- Therapy after a stroke, accident, or injury
- Rehab or skilled care after a recent hospitalization

HEALING AND RECOVERY  
CLOSER TO HOME





Meanderings

Well, last week I was discussing my tailless wonder, Eddie Fisher. On a recent Sunday evening I was on a Zoom call with some friends from across the country. Around 9:00 here he comes, head butting my leg, telling me something is wrong.

I told him I was busy. He had food and water. He can just go eat some dry kibble, because I fed him hours ago and he didn't need anything else to eat.

He didn't budge. Cried and head-butted, and meowed and bullied me and at some point he just sounded frantic, so I walked to the kitchen to see if the food dishes were empty. "See, I told

you there's food." BUT that ol' fella, walked over to the door and meowed. "You are not going out!" Oh! But wait!

How in the world did Dusty get out? Dusty was outside on the deck, asking to come in.

I let him in, and Eddie Fisher walked into the living room, jumped up on his little bench, curled up and that was that.

I guess he's some kind of dad now, checking to see that his teenagers are all home. Because I'm obviously failing as the main caretaker.

Barney isn't coming home in the evenings. He goes out about 4 but he's not usually here when the rest of us are going to bed. He comes home at all hours of the night and early morning. One thing I have learned (the hard way) is that he cannot come inside unless he ASKS to come in. I know if he's meowing, he doesn't have anything in

his mouth. Nothing dead. Nothing alive. I have rescued two live rodents in the last couple of weeks in my bedroom. And yes, I do have a live trap for mice. The dead little things get thrown in the trash. I guess they won't have to worry about surviving the winter.

I have two old ladies here who just turned 17 the first of August. About six weeks ago, Dolly started acting weird. Crying loudly and howling. She's not a crier, and certainly not a howler. She just usually chirps a little bit and that's the extent of her communications. But the crying and howling worried me. I couldn't find anything wrong with her. She didn't appear to be in pain when I picked her up. I did notice she didn't get up and roam around much, didn't go outside. I kept my eye on her though. Then one afternoon last week, I was watching her navigate the

bedroom. She bumped into a box and a table. I have been watching her more closely, and have determined she's lost some or all of her eyesight. I'll be taking her to the vet later this week. And her sister, Eleanor. I will be taking her to the vet as well. My suspicion is that she has developed dementia. I googled it. Cats can get dementia. And she has most of the symptoms: Disorientation, excessive vocalization, pacing, wandering aimlessly, getting lost in the home, irritability, confusion, poor litterbox use (she sometimes uses the bathtub), poor grooming behavior (she's still grooming herself), decrease in appetite. It's been rather rough the last couple of weeks. And today, I found her on the front porch. She's never been in the front yard in 17 years, much less on the front porch. She must have been in the backyard and jumped over

the privacy fence (it'd be a good jump for an old kitty) and found her way to the front door. I have no idea how she knew to come to this door. So many she isn't as demented as I think. I'll have to see what the vet says.

I don't think there's much that can be done with a kitty with dementia. I can't put her in a kitty care home, so I guess I'll just have to learn to deal with her.

Being an owner of pets is hard. Especially when they need care.

And that Siamese? Skippy Jones? She's hale and hardy for a 20-year-old cat. She just lives her life quietly and with little fanfare.

Helped a large turtle cross First Street (old Highway 54) yesterday. He was very large. Seemed odd to see a turtle in November.

I just moved him onto the side of the road where

he was heading. I guess he decided that a rainy day spent in the park was just the ticket for him. I hope he enjoyed his day as much as we all enjoyed the moisture.

Always reading, and currently between books.

Decisions, decisions, decisions! Roberta

"One devoted to his cat would not leave it long alone. A cat's loyalty is not a thing to be taken for granted, but courted day by day."

—Robin Hobb, Fool's Errand

"Bile rose in my stomach, and I gagged a bit. Snapping turtles ate dead humans? Now I'd really heard it all. "Gross," I whispered, and Steele gave a short laugh."

—Tate James, Kate

Happy Here! Poems about small town life © 2024 Tom Fobbe

Staying in the same small town Is not a faulty aim. Like city folks You couldn't coax To leave the life they claim.

Nice to know town history, All things along the way. Who came here first, Times best and worst, What got us to today.

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike Dear Readers, Over a month ago (when I was pigheadedly determined to keep gardening when my neighbors had stopped), I promised I'd finally let you know how everything, including my luffa experiment worked out when I wrapped things up, which I expected to be in mid-November, after a First Frost. Well, the Moment of Garden Truth has arrived—NOT

because we've had a hard freeze—but because I called my garden quits. I wasn't defeated by our relentless, rain-less month of hot windy afternoons, nor did I come to my senses (as friends and neighbors hoped.) One day I just walked outside, stared all my haggard weary plants, thought, "It's time for this mess to go" and ripped my garden out. But first, I picked EVERY green tomato. I lost count around 227. I took one sack of 'em to my Mom to ripen and the rest are bagged up

out in the shed. Sounds like a gardening successes, right? I have never grown so many tomatoes in all my life. But before you go thinking I've got a super-powered green thumb, you should know that the reason I raised so many tomatoes is because I got duped. I "special ordered" Italian Marconi Red Pepper seeds that grew up to be tomatoes. Cherry, plum, roma, beefsteak—name a tomato and I'll bet I grew it, thinking I was raising peppers. I'm not complaining, mind you. Sure, I fell for a pep-

per scam but I've got freezer full of delicious homegrown tomatoes to use through the winter for soups, chili and clam sauce, not to mention the ones eaten fresh or shared with friends and family. Although I won't accept gardening kudos for my tomato harvest, I am proud to report I grew 18 luffa gourds, which are now drying in the shed. They range in size and my best estimate at this point in the process is that these gourds will yield 60-70 bath and kitchen sponges. I'm not sure they'll be ready by this

Christmas, but I'm convinced they will, one day, make great gifts. I'm even prouder I grew one Giant African Wine/Water gourd. It received a great deal of my gardening attention. It's HUGE and I plan to make Martin Birdhouse with it, so I'll let you know how THAT turns out. I've saved the pumpkin report for last...The good news is that I did NOT repeat the Pumpkin Patch Massacre of 2020. The bad news is that my efforts only yielded two grapefruit-sized pumpkins. To those whom I

saw slow down as they passed the farm on Oct. 31st, I wasn't hanging out by the road waiting for the Great Pumpkin. I doubt he's forgotten my crime(s) so the farm's probably off his route or marked with a scarlet M. I was pacing through the field figuring out where to plant garlic. I may have called this year's garden quits but Halloween feels like a perfect time to plant treats for 2025. Until next week—keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

Poetry From Daily Life edited by David L. Harrison, Missouri's Poet Laureate Poetry from Daily Life: Remember any schoolyard rhymes? Those were poems you memorized By Kate Coombs This week's guest on Poetry from Daily Life is Kate Coombs, who lives in Bountiful, Utah. Kate began writing when she was seven or eight years old and was first published in 2006. She confides that her first poem was oral. "I asked my mom: 'What will I be, when I'm through with 3?' I did not like the answer. I wanted to skip 4 so I could go to kindergarten." Kate has written poetry collections, picture books, middle grade fiction, and rhymed board books, but first and foremost is a poet. She says that her newest project is al-

ways her favorite. That includes a recent poetry collection called "Today I Am a River" about imagining yourself as different things in nature (April 2023). A unique fact about Kate? She is one of seven ethnically diverse adopted children. ~ David L. Harrison The poetry you didn't know you memorized It used to be that stories weren't written down, they were told and passed down orally. Thanks to the invention of written language and Gutenberg's printing press, today's stories and poems are mostly written. But the oral tradition persists in surprising places. You yourself have memorized some poems and didn't even know it: jump rope rhymes! Do you remember? Here's the one that first popped into my head: Cinderella, dressed in yella, Went upstairs to kiss her fella. By mistake she kissed a snake, How many doctors did it take? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6... Maybe your reaction to this jump rope rhyme is "That's not how it goes!" And you're right, because the words are altered as they are passed down, not family to family like Grimms' fairy tales were, but kid to kid on playgrounds all over this country and beyond. Which means the words are a little different in different places. How does this relate to writing poetry? Well, jump rope rhymes are a good example of rhythm, meter, and beat. What's more, small sections of poetry are measured in feet, and just watch those feet jump! You don't have to memorize any of this for a test, but you might like to see how poems work when they use different rhythms, or meters. Keep in mind that words have accented (strong) syllables and unaccented (weak) syllables. For example, "purple" has an accented and then an unaccented

syllable: PUR-ple. "Banana" has an unaccented, an accented, and an unaccented syllable: ba-NA-na. There are five types of poetic feet. Here are just two, each illustrated by a word: Trochee: one stressed syllable, one unstressed syllable (one strong, one weak). For example, "pencil" (PEN-cil). This is the meter used in "Cinderella," and there's a reason for that. Notice how the first syllable thumps like feet going down and the second syllable is light as the feet go up in the air. "CIN-der-EL-la DRESSED in YEL-la..." Watch that rope twirl! Iamb: one unstressed syllable, one stressed syllable (one weak, one strong). For example, "relax" (re-LAX). This is the meter you hear in Shakespeare's plays. It is said to sound the most like ordinary conversation and even heartbeats. The other part of this equation is how many feet are in a line. "Cinderella" has four trochees per line, which is called tetrameter. Shakespeare's lines are usually written in pentameter, or five iambs per line. Here's a line from Romeo and Juliet with the five feet separated out: "But, SOFT!/what LIGHT/through YON/-der WIN/-dow BREAKS?" A lot of poetry these days is written in free verse, which doesn't stick to a steady, repeated rhythm of meters and beats. It has its own kind of beauty. But some everyday poetry we're all familiar with, like song lyrics and jump rope rhymes, use meter, along with rhyme. Of course, you may never write jump rope rhymes, but you can hop and skip down memory lane with them. And maybe you can buy a jump rope for a child in your life. You don't need to teach kids these small poems, though. They will learn them in the grand oral tradition of the playground. Kate Coombs has written more than 30 books for kids, including four poetry collections. Living in Utah, she appreciates the mountains and the deer in the backyard when they're not eating her plants. You can visit Kate's website at www.katecoombs.com.



**Community Bulletin Board**

<b>Friday, November 8</b> HS FB 6-Man Regional Playoff	<b>Monday, November 18</b> K-6 Health Screenings *** JH BB vs Argonia at HOME
<b>Saturday, November 9</b> HS Play	<b>Wednesday, November 20</b> 7-12 Health Screenings *** 6:00 332 Shop Guild
<b>Monday, November 11</b> Veterans' Day *** JH BB vs Macksville at HOME	<b>Thursday, November 21</b> Scholars' Bowl at South Barber
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b> Heart of the Plains League Mass Band Concert at Burrton	<b>Friday, November 22</b> HS FB 6-Man Sub- State Playoffs
<b>Friday, November 15</b> HS Football 6-Man Sectionals	

*The Community Calendar is sponsored by*



nvalleybank.com Member FDIC

101 E. First Street  
Cunningham, KS  
620-298-2511

*In observance of  
Veterans' Day,  
Ninnescah Valley Bank  
will be closed  
Monday, November 11.*

**Thank you for  
advertising with  
The Courier**

**Libraries**

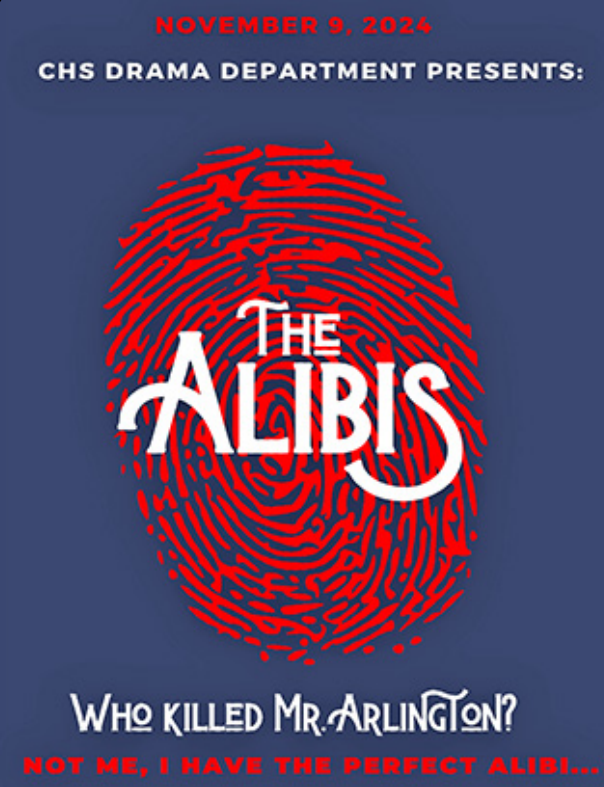
**Cunningham Public Library**  
Mon., Wed., Fri.  
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Tues., Thurs., Sat.  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Closed for Holidays  
298-3163

**Zenda Public Library**  
Monday  
8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.  
Thursday:  
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday:  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
620-243-5791

**Kingman Carnegie Library**  
Mon. & Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Thurs. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Fri. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
620-532-3061

**Pratt Public Library**  
Mon. - Thurs.  
10:00 - 7:00  
Friday: 10:00 - 6:00  
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00  
Closed on Sundays  
(620) 672-3041

NOVEMBER 9, 2024  
CHS DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:



**THE ALIBIS**


WHO KILLED MR. ARLINGTON?  
NOT ME, I HAVE THE PERFECT ALIBI...

The CHS Drama Department will be presenting "The Alibis" on Saturday, November 9 at 7:00 PM. In this murder mystery, the suspects are placed in the position of trying to provide an alibi for the time of the murder, with some hilarious results. Admission is \$5. Students and passes get in for free. Please join us for the high school students' production of "The Alibis."

St. John Lutheran Church  
Nashville, KS

**Chicken Noodle Dinner**  
Holiday Craft and Bake Sale  
Sponsored by The Dorcas Society  
November 17, 2024  
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
Free Will Donation  
Chicken Noodles, Mashed Potatoes,  
Vegetables, Salads, Desserts

**Time to Sample Some Soup!**



The Penalosa UWF will be hosting their annual Soup Sampling event on Saturday, November 9, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Penalosa Community Building. Come and sample a variety of delicious homemade soups and vote for your favorite. They will also be serving sandwiches, pie and other desserts. The cost is a freewill donation which is used to support various missions such as the Kingman Core Community, Samaritan's Purse, Hands of Hope, Kingman food bank, Cunningham and Kingman Project Prom and Christmas Angel gifts. If you have items to donate to local food banks, or the Children's shoebox ministry, we will collect those as well.



**BOE Will Meet  
Next Wednesday  
Evening**  
Cunningham USD  
#332  
Board of Education  
Meeting  
104 W 4th St.,  
Cunningham, KS 67035  
Wednesday,  
November, 13 2024 7:00  
p.m.

**AGENDA**  
I. Call to Order  
II. Approval of  
Agenda (AI)  
III. Guest  
Recognition  
IV. Approval of the  
minutes of the October  
16, 2024 regular meeting.  
(AI)  
V. Approval of fi-  
nancial reports and pay-  
ment of bills (AI)  
VI. Reports  
a. Superintendent  
report – Dr. Arnberger  
b. Principal report-  
Mr. Dunlap  
c. Special Ed re-  
port – Bjorn Halderson  
VII. Old Business  
a. Construction  
Project  
b. Approve  
Strategic Goal Statement  
VIII. New Business  
a. Executive  
Session (personnel)  
b. Approve part-  
time coaching position  
c. Approve ELA  
Curriculum  
IX. Other  
X. Adjournment

**SPECIAL SEMINAR FOR SENIORS**

**PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FRAUD AND  
MEDICARE VS. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE -  
KNOW YOUR FACTS**

Featured Speakers:


**Bobbi Jo Dixon, CRCM**  
Compliance Officer for Citizens Bank of Kansas  
Chair of the Heartland Compliance Group

**Amber Clouse, MHA, RHIA, CRCR, CRHCP**  
Director of Business Operations and HIPAA  
Compliance Officer for Kingman Healthcare Center

**Please join us for this free event!**

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
1:30 PM  
Sacred Heart Parish Hall  
404 E First St, Cunningham, KS

*Brought to you by*



**FREE SHREDDING EVENT!**

Saturday, November 16th  
10:30 am to 1:00 pm

**PRATT** 200 Block  
of S. Ninnescah St.

Limit of 5 boxes  
per customer




**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
237 N. Main in Kingman  
(620) 532-1253  
<http://www.kingmantheatre.org/>

**All Seats are \$3.00**  
(cash or local  
check only)  
**Showtimes:**  
**Friday at 7:30**  
**Sunday at 5:30**

**November 8 - 10**  
**Best Christmas  
Pageant Ever**  
Rated PG

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR  
Kingman Historic Theatre.



**Where Were/Are You, Lord**

*By Doug Laird*  
Most Christians are familiar with Hebrews 13: 5 and Matthew 28: 20, assuring Church Age believers of never being without the personal indwelling (1) and presence of God.

Yet at times, in the midst of our pain, frustration, and disappointment, many of us have found ourselves crying out, "Where were/are You, Lord?"

Although a patient and sympathetic silence is a common experience when we dare question the faithfulness (2), actions, or inactions on the part of the Almighty, the rejoinder from God the Father could be, "The same place that I was when My Son was betrayed, beaten, scourged, spat upon, crucified, crushed, and forsaken for your benefit.

My Son was a good boy (3), an grew up to be a fine young man (4). He cared for His widowed mother, making arrangements for her continued logistical care (5) in the midst of His intense suffering and immanent death.

He was accused and convicted of sin and crimes that He did not commit.

He deserved none of the adversity that He willingly took upon Himself.

Yet, for the love (6) that I have for Fallen Man), I

... It is easy to have faith when things are going our way, but not so when our faith is put to the test (7). It takes strong faith to believe that God causes ALL things (including the seemingly bad) to work together for good (8).

Both blessings and adversity come directly or indirectly from the hands

of God (9). Whatever adversity God does not send, He allows to take place, in order to accomplish a divine objective.

Tragedy and disappointment are a part of the human experience, here in the devil's world (10).

Not only are Christians subjected to the same hardships as their unbelieving counterparts, they are in line to suffer even more so when they take a godly stand in an ungodly world.

Born again Church Age believers, having the assurance that God will never leave or forsake them, does not immune them from the pain and suffering associated with the general human experience here on planet Earth.

As previously noted, our walk with God opens the door to a form of trials and tribulations (11) that

is foreign to our unbelieving counterparts.

As of the moment they are born again, the individual bodies of all born again Church Age believers become the permanent temple and dwelling place of God, during their time here on Earth.

Believers may not always "feel" His presence, especially when out of fellowship with God.

Many things can impact the way we feel, opening the door to satanic influence.

But God is still there, regardless of the way we feel.

God is with the born again believer in the midst of his or her mountaintop experiences, and is there in our deepest and darkest valleys.

I have had many mountaintop and dark valley experiences.

When God allows adversity and heartache to impact us, His presence is there to get us through.

Even when the adversity generates a life-threatening or life taking scenario, He is there to get the believer through or to take him or her home.

Should the event be God's means of setting the stage to take us home, we can leave this planet knowing that the God of the widow and orphans (12) will still be there for them.

One of the reasons He sends or allows trouble to come our way is to remind us of our dependency on Him.

As long as we feel that we have everyone and everything we need, and that we are in control, we can easily slip into a Rev. 3: 17 frame of mind.

"Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything," and you do not know that you are (spiritually) wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

(Rev. 3: 17 NASB2020 parenthesis mine)."

Developing a 24/7 consciousness of the indwelling presence and interactions of God, will go along way in generating and preserving the peace that surpasses all understanding (13) when we find ourselves in the deep valleys of life and or facing our earthly departure.

God never leaves a born again believer, but sin and independence can numb our awareness of His presence and interaction, working behind the scenes.

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(1) 1Cor. 3: 16 (2) 2Tim. 2: 13 (3) Luke 2: 51 (4) Luke 2: 52 (5) John 19: 26, 27 (6) John 3: 16 (7) Heb. 11: 36-40 (8) Romans 8: 28 (9) Job 2: 10 (10) Luke 4: 6 (11) John 16: 33 (12) Psalms 68: 5 (13) Phil. 4: 7

**Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church. Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.**

**Free Bread & Baked Goods at the Cunningham Methodist Church 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays**



**Strange Math**

After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father, "How many brides can the groom marry?" "One," his father said. "Why do you ask?" "Because the priest said he could marry sixteen," the boy said, puzzled. "How'd you come up with that?" his father asked. "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up like the priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

**Prayer for Hearing**

After service, a stranger approached the pastor and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing." The pastor touched the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer. "How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked. Surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."

**Sunday Fish Tale**

A boy came late to Sunday School. Knowing he was usually very prompt, his teacher asked, "Johnny, is anything wrong?" "No, ma'am, not really," he said. "I was going to go fishing, but my dad told me that I needed to get on up and go to church." The teacher was very impressed and asked Johnny if his father had explained why going to church was more important than fishing. "Yes, ma'am, he did," Johnny said. "My daddy said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."




**A Pastor's Power**

A pastor was in the middle of his sermon when he noticed a man had fallen asleep with his head on his wife's shoulder. "Wake up, your husband," Pastor Riley snapped. The wife smiled and replied, "You put him to sleep. You wake him up."



**Giving Opportunities in our Community**  
**4C Day Care** Leave a donation with the Methodist Church.  
**West Kingman County Education Foundation**  
 Use your Dillon's Card! (to donte contact Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)  
**Hands of Hope** (contact any church)  
**Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund**  
 (send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)  
**Cunningham Community Center** (leave donation at the bank)  
**Lions' Club**  
**Cunningham Museum** (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)  
**Cunningham Public Library** (to donate, contact Kerri Steffen)  
**Cunningham EMS** (to donate, contact Monte Rose or Kathy Albers)

**Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.**  
**Who:** A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.  
**Who we serve:** Residents within the USD #332 school district  
**What:** Food  
**When:** **First and Third Tuesday 2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Where:** 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)  
**Why:** To provide food assistance to those in need.  
**How:** Attend weekly distribution. Adult of household must be present.  
Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?  
 Please call 620-491-0292 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

<b>Catholic Churches</b>		<b>First Christian Church</b>	
	<b>Sacred Heart, Cunningham</b> Saturday 4:00 p.m..	<b>St. John, Zenda</b> Sundays 10:00 a.m.	<b>Cunningham</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:45 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 Jr High Youth Group 4:00 pm Sunday Sr High Youth Group 7:30 pm Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 Pastor Mike McGovney 620-298-3201
	<b>St. Leo</b> Sudnay 8:30 a.m.	<b>St. Peter Willowdale</b> Saturday 5:30 p.m.	
	Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627	620-246-5370	
<b>Lutheran Churches</b>		<b>United Methodist Church</b>	
	<b>St. John, Nashville</b> 620-246-5220 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	<b>Trinity, Medicine Lodge</b> 620- 886-3397 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 8:30 a.m.	<b>Penalosa</b> Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090
			<b>Cunningham</b> Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor vacancy until further notice.		620-298-2090	
<b>Church of Christ</b>		<b>Zenda Methodist Church</b>	
	<b>Penalosa</b> Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m. Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953	



YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1929

Nov. 8, 1929 - A deal was completed this week whereby Sam McMichael became the owner of the Meng Motor Company, better known as the Cannonball Garage.

A new electric meat saw was installed this week at Hauser's Cash Market.

Prices on a new 1930 Chevrolet with bumpers and spare tire delivered in Cunningham are Roadster \$648.00, Coupe \$718.00, Coach \$718.00, Sedan \$798.00, Landau Sedan \$818.00, and Sport Coupe \$768.00.

1934

Nov. 9, 1934 - Charles Cooley, 79, a pioneer resident of the Cunningham community, passed away this (Thursday) morning.

Wiley Doty and Carl Green of Cunningham are working at the CCC Camp near Mankato.

The State Highway Commission announced this week that contracts would be let soon to pave the last ten miles of the Cannonball Highway through Cunningham and the western part of Kingman County

1939

Nov. 10, 1939 - Clyde Walter, 53, Editor of the Zenda Headlight for the past fifteen years, passed away Tuesday.

Europe entered its eighth week of war this week with casualties and action still at a minimum, and with the major offensives being made into the diplomatic field.

1949

Nov. 4, 1949 - Students on the High School Honor Roll for the first six weeks of school are Beverly Barr, Jimmy Gagnebin, Billy Huffman, Gordon Heeke, Mary Smith, Romona Zrubek, Rosanne Boen, Elva Mae Gagnebin, Ann Hauser, June Cooley, Richard Hazlett, Patsy Oswald, Gale Harris, Melville Mefford, Anna Smith, John Sterneker, Barbara Weir, and Beverly Weir.

1954

Nov. 11, 1954 - All the bids received by the High School Board for the new auditorium/gymnasium and shop building at Cunningham Rural High School were found to be too high upon opening last Wednesday afternoon. A large number of contractors and companies were represented in the bidding, but the closest bid exceeded the \$150,000 bond issue allocated for the new construction by about \$30,000.

1959

Nov. 5, 1959 - Cunningham won their first football game of the 1959 season Tuesday evening, edging past Protection by a 7-6 score at Protection. After a scoreless first half of sparked by some savage line play by both teams, Cunningham capped a 74-yard drive in the third period with Fullback Jerry Pelzl scoring a touchdown on a six-yard plunge. Pelzl again slashed through the middle of the line from the two-yard line for the all-important point-after-touchdown.

The first snow of the winter fell Wednesday night, dropping the temperatures to 23 degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Hodgkinson of Roswell, N. Mex., announce the birth of a daughter, Friday, Oct.

23, at the Eastern New Mexico Medical Hospital in Roswell. She weighed six pounds, seven and one-half ounces, and has been named Connie Leann. Mrs. Genevieve Singleton of Cunningham is the maternal grandmother, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hodgkinson of Pratt, are the paternal grandparents.

1964

Nov. 5, 1964 - The Cunningham Wildcats lost two football games during the past week, closing their 1964 season with a record of two straight wins followed by six straight losses. Partridge dumped the Wildcats by a 41-20 score here last Friday night, and Alden proved to be good "mudders" as they rolled over Cunningham by a 51-12 score in a game played here Tuesday night in a steady downpour of rain.

1969

Nov. 6, 1969 - Floyd Spade of Nashville, won first place in the St. Leo Open Pool Tournament held at the St. Leo Grocery and Supply last Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

The Cunningham Wildcats completed their 1969 football season with a winning note last Friday night, walloping the Partridge Quails 48 to 14, in a Golden Plains League game played at Partridge. The Wildcats finished 3 - 3 in league play, and 3 - 4 for the season

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes  
Editor: Rex Zimmerman  
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantoath

1974

November 7 1974- The West Café, located on the west edge of Cunningham on U.S. 54, will celebrate its grand opening Saturday and add a fine eating establishment to the community and surrounding area.

The café is owned and operated by Eunice (Harris) Cox, a 1937 graduate of Cunningham High School. Her mother, Daisy Harris present resides in Cunningham.

To celebrate the opening, the West Café will feature family style chicken and catfish dinners Friday and Saturday with serving to start at 4 p.m.

Keeping with the family spirit, Eunice said that her sister, Zona Pogue of Wellsville, Ks., will move to town soon to help in running the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thome and Jim Thome were Wednesday evening supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Al Joe Sterneker and family. They celebrated the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Thome.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Krug spent the weekend visiting Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Krug at Derby.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Schnittker visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ratcliff, during Veterans Day weekend.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes  
Editor: Scott Newton  
Reporter: Florine Kampling

1979

November 8 1979 - The Great Golden Plains League has published their selections for outstanding players in the 1979 football season. Troy Rohr of Cunningham was selected as one of the defensive ends. He is the only Cunningham player selected and deserves the congratulations of the school and community.

The Junior Class will present "Little Women" on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cunningham High School Auditorium. This classic, written by Louisa May Alcott, takes place during the Civil War and centers around the lives of four sisters, the March girls, and their family and friends.

The cast is as follows: Jo, Sherry Schnittker; Meg, Ellen Colucci; Beth, Janice Stillwell; Amy, Bonnie Fischer; Marmee, Naola Thimesch; Father, Shawn Rohr; Aunt March, Debbie Mills; Laurie, Mike McGovney; John Brooks, Mark Crawford; Professor Bhaer, Rusty Walter. The play is under the direct of Jean Anne Willhite. Admission is \$1. The public is invited.

The Wildcats ended the season last Friday with a 56-0 win over the Mullenville Tigers.

From the opening kickoff to the final gun the Wildcats were in complete control being led by four seniors playing perhaps the final football game of their career. Troy Rohr, Rob Fischer, Brian DeWeese and Randy Hageman have shown good leadership throughout the season and will be missed by the coaching staff next year.

1984

November 8, 1984 - Debbie Beat has taken on the task of heading up the Christmas Parade to be held Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. The theme of the parade will be Christmas, Today and Yesterday. Keith and Kay House are in charge of the Parade which will hold registration at the United Methodist Church from 12:30 till 1:30 p.m.

The one mill levy proposed for the Cunningham Public Library in Tuesday's election passed by an overwhelming majority.

Cindy Kelly had not spun the Wheel of Fortune in the Cunningham Grocery contest for this week. Maxine Millsap won \$10 and Christie Murphy \$20.

The second graders in Mrs. Hartley's class wrote stories and poetry for Halloween. Here are some that they would like to share with you:

The Cat and the Bat

The black cat sat on a mat by his hat.  
A bat flapped along and  
cared the cat who sat on his hat.  
The cat said, "Bat, you made me sit on my hat!"  
Erin Huffman

The Ghost

One night a ghost came out to scare the children.  
The children ran down the sidewalk. The ghost chased after them but the children ran and ran. The ghost ran, too. Then the ghost went back to his home.  
-Aryn Raney

The Frightened Witch

A black cat saw a witch and it was frightened. One night the witch also frightened a rat. The night the rat came out and frighted the witch. That rat lived!  
-Lisa Huffman

The fourth grade had a poetry-writing project. They had to choose from the topics "Autumn" or "Halloween." This was an English assignment. They all wrote a variety of poems.

Fall Leaves  
Red, orange, yellow, and brown,  
All over the sky.  
Rainbow at your feet.  
Pick it up, let it fly  
All over the sky.  
Up and down, up and down,  
And then to your feet.  
-Becky Huffman



Surviving the 70s - Danger Bowling & the Peanut Van

"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country."  
Kurt Vonnegut

I have mentioned before in this column that in my formative years I attended a low-budget private school. It was an interesting place to absorb an education, but while we were taught well, school could be sometimes dangerous. It's

fun to remember. And it is amusing to think that now my classmates, and all of us in that generation, are fully entrenched in all aspects of our society. We grew up, got old, and started to run things. It's amazing we survived.

The 1970s were a different time, unusual in many ways. But it was a good time to live and be in high school. We had some of the best music - Led Zeppelin, Steely Dan, Aretha and Stevie, Chicago, Elton and Eagles. Sure, we had turbulence - Vietnam, Watergate, the big oil embargo, and the perilous administration of Jimmy Carter. But overall, those were pretty good years, until we met John Travolta and disco took over.

One recurring episode that I well remember from these high school days was bowling in P.E. class. This story may

offend the safety-conscious sensibilities of some readers, but as I said before, the 70s were a different time.

Prior to the beginning of our bowling adventures, our school administrators, for some undisclosed reason, had made the decision to buy a large, used panel van. Not a regular van, but one of those large, walk-in step vans, kind of like a UPS truck. It was an old Chevy or GMC model from the late 50s or early 60s. Under peeling white paint, you could read the faded letters on the side revealing that it had been a Tom's Peanut delivery van in its former life. We called it the Peanut Van.

I was in a very small P.E. class at the time. There were only seven or eight of us miscreants in this group. We were a bit of a motley crew, and maybe not the students you would want to leave

unsupervised.

On occasion, our teacher, Mr. King, needed a break. I'm not sure what he did on these days off, maybe he just put his feet up with a bag of Cheetos in the breakroom, we were never sure. But here is what would happen. As we poured out of the locker room, clad only in our blue gym shorts and white tee shirts, running towards the basketball courts, Mr. King would casually toss the keys to the Peanut Van at one kid in our group and instruct us to go bowling... by ourselves. He would send us, this group of 15 and 16-year-old boys, driving a beat-up used van, by ourselves in the big city (okay, pretty big town - we weren't out in the country), to the bowling alley across town. Most often, Dave Faulk was the driver. I think he was 16 then and probably

had his driver's license. He was fearless. He drove a Corvair to school, those cars that Ralph Nader warned us about. They were "unsafe at any speed" and would blow up and burn all the occupants alive inside if you hit anything. You had to be brave to drive a Corvair (the entire Faulk family drove those cars). At Mr. King's command we piled in the Peanut Van and Dave would take the wheel. We were off like drunken sailors on shore leave. Dave was a good driver, but I can remember being thrown around quite a bit in the back of the van (no seats) as we weaved through traffic at high speed.

At the bowling alley, we needed \$1.25. You could bowl three games for a dollar. Shoe rental cost 25 cents. Sometimes we were able to score some nachos or chili

fries, if any of the guys had extra money. And the bowling was fun, especially unsupervised. We had to keep score manually and use those small golf pencils.

All too soon our games were finished. We headed back to school, racing through traffic to beat the bell. We had nary an accident or issue during any of our bowling trips. We were never pulled over by the police. We never received a speeding ticket. Pedestrians were avoided and no accidents reported. I think we kept the sliding side doors open on these bowling runs, but none of us fell out of the van, not even once. We all survived. And school was fun.

I still like to bowl...



## 2024 HEART OF THE PLAINS VOLLEYBALL ALL LEAGUE



1st Team		
Zoie Redgate	SR	Attica
Chloe Traffas	SR	Attica
<b>Rylee Miller</b>	SO	<b>Cunningham</b>
Belle Barnett	SR	Hutchinson-Central Christian
Avery Kauffman	SO	Hutchinson-Central Christian
Reagan Smith	JR	Norwich
Kory Anschutz	SR	Pratt-Skyline
Grace Hoffman	SR	Pratt-Skyline
Ashley Spease	SR	Pratt-Skyline
Marie Arkmanova	JR	Pretty Prairie
Ava White	JR	Pretty Prairie
Kayleigh Vogl	SO	Pretty Prairie

Honorable Mention		
Makena Mans	JR	Attica
Libby Swingle	SO	Attica
Shay Hayden	SO	Burton
<b>Ellie McGuire</b>	SR	<b>Cunningham</b>
<b>Macy Nuefeld</b>	SO	<b>Cunningham</b>
Luella Gard	SR	Fairfield
Marissa Pugh	SR	Fairfield
Reece Swanson	SO	Hutchinson-Central Christian
Danielle MacKinney	JR	South Barber
Kenslea Schupbach	SO	South Barber
Peyton Roush	SO	Stafford
Rylee Ferguson	FR	Stafford



### K-State 105 project Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference Selects Locations

MANHATTAN, ANDOVER AND TOPEKA — Partners involved in a collaborative K-State 105 project have selected locations for the inaugural Kansas Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference: Kingman in Kingman County will be the host site in June 2025 and Courtland in Republic County will be the host site in June 2026.

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference promotes small communities and highlights people, businesses and best practices for creating an entrepreneurial

mindset. All Kansans are invited to attend the two-day conferences in the host communities.

The conference has received funding and support from K-State 105, the university's economic growth and community engagement initiative for all 105 counties in Kansas. Partners involved include K-State Research and Extension; NetWork Kansas; the Kansas Department of Commerce Quality Places Division, including the Office of Rural Prosperity and Kansas Main Street; and Thrive Kansas.

"While K-State Research and Extension was developing the idea for the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference, we knew we couldn't do it alone," said Nancy Daniels, community vitality specialist with K-State Research and Extension. "By working together with K-State 105 partners across the state,

our resources and knowledge expanded exponentially. We're looking forward to bringing this new event to Kansas."

More than 25 Kansas communities applied to be host sites for the 2025 and 2026 conferences. A requirement was that the host site must be a small city with a population of less than 10,000 people.

Through the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference, the partners are aiming to expand equitable entrepreneurial capacity by sharing knowledge, tools and resources with Kansans.

"Kansas is home to incredible places and people, and it's those very people and communities that make great entrepreneurs," said Sarah LaRosh, director of E-Community Partnership with NetWork Kansas. "Unfortunately, challenges like economies of scale, negative perceptions or lack of

community support can hold them back. My vision for Kansas is that no individual or community feels overlooked or less than. Dreams can flourish, communities can prosper and entrepreneurs can thrive even in our small, rural towns."

2025 will mark the first time that a conference like this has been hosted in Kansas. The Kansas Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference replicates a national Extension model where 100-150 local entrepreneurs, community leaders, entrepreneur support organizations and state partners come together to share best practices, entrepreneur stories and regional planning.

"The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference gives us a unique opportunity to highlight the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit found in small towns across Kansas," said Matt Godinez,

Kansas Department of Commerce assistant secretary of quality places. "By bringing together innovators, leaders and business owners, we can create a stronger foundation for local growth and empower communities to shape their own futures."

The Kansas conference will offer opportunities to spotlight communities, share energy and connect resources. Conference participants will stroll to workshops in downtown areas and community entrepreneurs will be highlighted as conference presenters. Experts from across the state will share best practices to help entrepreneurial communities.

More information about the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference, including dates and registration, will be released in the coming months. Learn more about the conference at [k-state.edu/105/projects/connecting-entrepreneurial-communities-conference.html](http://k-state.edu/105/projects/connecting-entrepreneurial-communities-conference.html).

communities-conference.html.

About K-State 105: K-State 105 is Kansas State University's answer to the call for a comprehensive economic growth and advancement solution for Kansas. The initiative leverages the state-wide K-State Research and Extension network to deliver the full breadth of the university's collective knowledge and solution-driven innovation to every Kansan, right where they live and work. Additionally, K-State 105 forges the connections and partnerships that create access to additional expertise within other state institutions and agencies, nonprofits and organizations — all part of an effort to build additional capacities and strengths in each of the 105 counties in the state.

For more information about the E-Community Partnership, visit [ecompartnership.com](http://ecompartnership.com) or call 877-521-8600.

### Kansas Profile – Now That's Rural: Sara Larson, Wild & Blooming

"Bloom where you are planted" goes a common saying.

Today we'll meet an entrepreneur who is using floral blooms to create a beautiful life for herself and others – even as far away as the White House.

Portrait of Sara Larson holding a bouquet of flowers Sara Larson is the entrepreneur who is providing these beautiful decorations. She is founder and owner of the business known as Wild & Blooming Floral and Events.

She grew up on a place between Junction City and Chapman. As a young Geary County 4-Her, she discovered a passion for floriculture. "Our 4-H leader taught me a lot about floral design," Larson said.

In college, she became the go-to person to provide flower arrangements for friends and family members who were getting married. Meanwhile, she earned a degree from the Washburn School of Business and then worked at Walt Disney World in Florida.

She helped put on numerous weddings, EPCOT Flower & Garden shows, food & wine festivals, and more. She even produced and directed several movie premieres and private celebrity events in Florida, California and New York. She worked with the Disney florists and, in food service, with master sommeliers.

Wanting to be closer to home, she moved back to the Kansas City area and worked in marketing for a large distillery in northeast Kansas. Here she met and married Andy Larson and ultimately moved to his family ranch north of Manhattan. After their daughter Clara was born, she was thinking about what to do with her career.

"Well, you always enjoyed flowers," Andy said.

Larson decided to pursue her dream of owning her own business. It began with a floral studio on the

family ranch.

"We took Grandpa Larson's old tractor barn and converted it to our studio," Larson said.

The building was old and weathered.

"You could see through the walls," Larson said. They poured a concrete floor, fixed the walls, and put in new windows.

One question included what should she name her business? "We went out to check the cattle in the fall and the wildflowers were blooming," Larson said.

Thinking about the beautiful wildflowers and modifying some words from a country song, she named her business Wild & Blooming, LLC.

Wild & Blooming was founded in November 2021. "I went to a bridal fair and started booking weddings," Larson said. As the business grew, Larson opened a floral studio in downtown Manhattan in January 2024.

"We started with weddings, but now we're providing floral arrangements for other events, such as large fundraisers or K-State events," she said.

"I think we've mastered purple flowers," she said with a smile.

Larson holds multiple certifications, such as the from American School of Floral Design – Wedding Floral Program, Floral Certificate from Johnson County Community College, Court of Master Sommeliers Level II Sommelier, Certified Event Planner and more.

"We work hard to make sure we accomplish what the bride wants," Larson said. "We do previews (of decorations) so we can meet the bride's preferences."

For example, she recalls showing a design to a bride and the bride said, "I like it." Larson replied, "No, I want you to love it." She kept working until she found the ideal design for the bride's preference.

"Flowers make people happy," Larson said. "It can be the most important day of a bride's life. I love seeing the joy which flowers can bring people."



Sara Larson

In December 2024, she will do floral arrangements for a wedding on the island of St. Lucia. One year she had the opportunity to decorate Christmas trees at Constitution Hall for the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington DC. She has even been accepted to do the holiday decorations for the White House.

It's an impressive record for a business which began near the rural community of Randolph, population 159 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, see [www.wildblooming.com](http://www.wildblooming.com).

"Bloom where you are planted," says the proverb. We commend Sara Larson for making a difference by making her business bloom.

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University



War

The following was written by a World War II soldier from Kingman County in 2004 when he was asked about his memories of the war. I think it is fitting we think about what he had to say on this coming Veterans Day.

War is a mind changing, mind setting and morals stretching experience that conditions a young man for the rest of his life. The atrocities of war seen and performed by a young man, changes one's perception of compassion, nobility, humanity and morality. A soldier is taught to be a killer, to destroy habitations, and to destroy other civilizations.

History records that no civilization ever existed that did not begin with, survive by, or end with war. History records

that all civilizations were developed to control the human population of that civilization for good or bad. We of this nation owe our forbearers a debt of gratitude that we have never developed an attitude of aggression in any of our wars with other countries.

The settlement of this nation by Europeans was a major exception to this statement. We have kept the atrocities of war to a minimum so far as human suffering is concerned. No nations were destroyed, but in the aftermath of war, they were given every opportunity to develop their economy and living conditions for their citizens under democratic constitutions.

The biggest atrocity of wars developed by warring nations over the last century is the weapons of mass destruction



Byron Walker

that have proliferated.

The foregoing statements are generalized and wide open for political argument. I will say that, in spite of the futility of war, wars seem to be as necessary as your local police department, human nature being what it is.

To a soldier, atrocities

of combat are an everyday occurrence. My part of combat action was dominated by bullets, mortars, shells and bombs. All of these qualified in my concept of atrocities.

I was a Sherman Tank driver. My first bad combat experience was being blown out of my tank by

a bazooka with the other four tankers wounded and hospitalized. While waiting for a new crew, my tank was borrowed and put back into action. These fellows were veteran members of my platoon. You can't live under army conditions for a year and a half with the same people without becoming friends, and these fellows were all my buddies. They were waiting in a holding position behind a building. A shell came in and hit the building above the tank.

The men, being at ease, were exposed to the shell blast. Three were blown to pieces, two of them inside the tank. The tank was not harmed and it became my duty to return it to combat ready. This minor incident of a worldwide war was an atrocity of war. Losing these friends in such a

manner was a shock. I had spent over a year training for such circumstances, but reality hit me hard. Then came the duty of cleaning up the floor of the tank.

All this is by way of explaining my concept of wars. Having lived through the experience of war, I have the deepest respect for all young men who have served our country during war times. Policemen and firemen deserve the same respect. When anyone lays his life and integrity on the line to serve humanity, he is a true hero.

Honor any and all veterans, you owe them your future.

Byron Walker, 2004

*Editor's note: The reflection above was sent to The Courier by Danny Walker, son of Byron Walker.*

2024 Veterans Day Free or Discounted Meals and Services

To honor our nation's veterans, numerous companies are offering discounted or free products, meals, services and events to active-duty service members and veterans. These deals can be obtained on or around Veterans Day and in many cases can be enjoyed by military spouses and dependents as well. Be sure to check with the location you choose for any special details. Here are some of the best Veterans Day discounts for 2024:

Food and Dining

- Applebee's: Free full-size entrée from a special menu
- Bob Evans: Free meal from a special menu
- Buffalo Wild Wings: Free order of 10 boneless wings and fries
- bb.q Chicken: 25% off all in-store orders
- Denny's: Free Original Grand Slam from opening until noon
- Dunkin': Free donut in-person at participating locations
- Farmer Boys: FREE Big Cheese® burger to all veterans and active duty military personnel
- Fogo de Chao: 50% off the Full Churrasco Experience, guests also

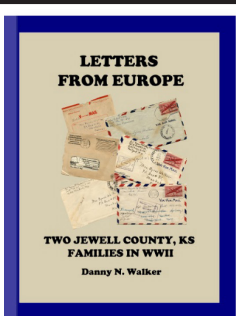
- Golden Corral: Free dinner for dine-in customers on Military Appreciation Night
- IHOP: Free Red, White and Blueberry pancakes or pancake combo for dine-in customers
- Joe's Crab Shack: 20% off dine-in meals
- Kolache Factory: FREE breakfast for all Vets on November 11!
- Kona Grill: 50% off
- Little Caesars: Free lunch combo from 11a.m.-2 p.m.
- Logan's Roadhouse: Free meal from a special menu during lunch hours
- Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ: Free meal from a special menu
- On the Border: Free Pick Two Combo for dine-in
- Outback Steakhouse: Free Bloomin' Onion and beverage with the purchase of an adult entrée
- Peet's Coffee: Free drip coffee or tea
- Polly's Pie: Free slice of pie
- Red Robin: Free Tavern Burger and fries for dine-in customers
- Ruby Tuesday: Free meal from a select menu
- Smoothie King: Free smoothie from a select menu
- Sonic Drive Thru: Half price shakes in any size and flavor, including both Classic and Master Shakes on on November 11.
- Starbucks: Free tall hot or cold brewed coffee,

- also available to military spouses
  - Taffer's Tavern: Offering 50% off plates and handhelds November 11-17.
  - Texas Roadhouse: Free meal from a select menu or receive a free meal voucher for a future purchase
  - TGI Friday's: Free lunch from a select menu
  - Wawa: Free hot coffee of any size
  - Whataburger: Saying "thank you" to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country with a free 16-ounce Hot or Iced Coffee.
  - White Castle: Free combo or breakfast combo for dine-in
- Retail**
- Amazon: 20% off
  - Ashley Furniture: 10% off any purchase at participating stores
  - Food Lion: 10% off in-store shopping total before taxes
  - IKEA: 15% on in-store home furnishings for up to \$3,000
  - Kohl's: 30% off qualifying purchases
  - Publix: 10% off
  - Rack Room Shoes: 20% off, also available to dependents
  - Samsung: 30% off
  - Sleep Number: 20% off most Sleep Number beds and bases
  - Target: 10% off
  - Under Armour: 40% off, also available to military spouses, 20% off any

- other time of year
  - Walgreens: 20% off, also available to military family members
- Recreation**
- Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum: Free admission, also applies for up to three immediate family members
  - Knott's Berry Farm: Discounted admission during Military Tribute Days, also available for up to five accompanying guests
  - Mammoth Mountain: Free lift ticket
  - Monticello: Free admission
  - Mount Vernon: Free admission
  - National Harbor: Celebrating Veterans Day and the anniversary of its Spirit Park with events and activities from November 8-11.
  - National Parks: Free admission to all National Park sites
  - National WWI Museum and Memorial: Free admission
  - Pro Football Hall of Fame: Free admission and parking, 20% off gift shop purchases
  - Six Flags Discovery

- Kingdom: Free admission, accompanying family members eligible to receive discounted tickets
  - Winchester Mystery House: 30% off admission, also applicable to family members
  - Zoos: Most zoos offer free or discounted admission on Veterans Day, inquire locally
- Travel and Services**
- AARP: Special membership offer
  - B&Bs for Vets: Free stays, most offering free one-night stays around Veterans Day
  - Goodyear Auto Service: Free tire, alignment, brake, fuel system and fluid checks with appointment
  - Grace for Vets: Free car wash
  - Great Clips: Free haircut or card for future free haircut
  - Midas: Supporting active military and veterans this Veterans Day and beyond with a coupon valid for 15% off tire and auto repair services at participating U.S. Midas shops.
  - NY Waterway: Free ferry rides

- Oil Changes: Free oil changes at varying locations, inquire locally
  - Russel Speeder's Car Wash: Between November 9-11 receive a complimentary car wash. A valid military ID is required.
  - Sport Clips: Free haircut
  - Super 8: 15% off Best Available Rate at participating locations
  - Waters Car Wash: Between November 9-11 receive a complimentary car wash. A valid military ID is required.
  - ZIPS Car Wash: Free Premier Wash
- Note: All discounts apply to U.S. veterans and active-duty military personnel with a valid military ID. Additional parties benefitting from the discount will be explicitly listed if applicable. Not all locations will be participating in these deals.
- Information was taken from The U.S. Veterans Magazine [usveteransmagazine.com](http://usveteransmagazine.com)



Letters from Europe

The Story Of Two Jewell County, Kansas Families During WWII  
By DANNY WALKER

Hardcover USD 78.38

This story is about my mother and father, Byron and June Walker, and their families in Jewell County, Kansas during the years of World War II (1940 - 1946 and beyond). While this story occurred during WWII, it is not really about the war itself. Dad, his older brother, Waldo, and mom's two brothes, Max and Julian, all served in the European Theater. Max also served in the Pacific Theater.

The story is about these four men who fought during the war; how it affected them and their families during the war; and continued to affect them after the war.

The basis of the story is 373 letters Dad wrote to Mom from Europe which Mom kept in a shoebox in her cedar chest. There were another 75 letters between family letters in the collection as well. Besides the stories told in these letters, information from the military records of the four men and their units was researched. Dad was a member of the 778th Tank Battalion during the war.

Publication Date: February 14, 2024; 142 pages; size: 8.5 x 11 inches  
ISBN: 9781304616890  
Can be purchased at [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**  
CUNNINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL GYM  
AT 10:00 AM

Veterans and families,  
Join us for a breakfast in your honor hosted by the National Honor Society. Enjoy donuts and coffee in the cafeteria at 9:30 am.



Kingman County Sheriff's Report



Sunday, October 27

- Traffic Stops 2
- Civil Paper Service 10
- Check Welfare 12000 Blk NE 30 St, Murdock
- Chase / Arrest 1000 W D Ave, Kingman

Monday, October 28

- Traffic Stop 1
- Civil Paper Service 1
- Agency Assist 1000 W D Ave, Kingman
- Suspicious Vehicle E 1st St & S Elliott St, Cunningham
- Transport Prisoner 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
- Traffic Complaint E Hwy 54 & NE 150 Ave, Cheney
- Theft 13000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney

Tuesday, October 29

- Traffic Stop 1
- Civil Paper Service 1
- Suspicious Vehicle NE 60 St & N Berry Ave, Kingman
- Miscellaneous 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
- Follow Up 100 Blk W 4th St, Cunningham
- Miscellaneous 300 Blk S Main St, Nashville
- Suspicious Person SE 40 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
- Miscellaneous 120 North Spruce St, Kingman
- Check Welfare 15000 Blk NE Paint Pony Trl, Cheney
- Traffic Complaint NE 10 St & Ne 170 Ave, Cheney
- Suspicious Person NW 50 St & N Hwy 11, Kingman
- Suspicious Activity SE 70 St & SE 70 Ave, Murdock
- Suspicious Vehicle 400 Blk S Valley St, Cunningham
- Miscellaneous 1700 Blk E Kansas Ave, Kingman
- Non-Injury Accident N Berry Ave & NW 20 St, Kingman

Wednesday, October 30

- Non-Injury Accident
- Non-Injury Accident
- Weather Watch
- Medical
- Traffic Complaint
- Non-Injury Accident

Thursday, October 31

- Non-Injury Accident
- Non-Injury Accident
- Theft
- Traffic Complaint
- Non-Injury Accident
- 911 Accidental Dial
- Warrant Service

Friday, November 1

- Traffic Stops 2
- Civil Paper Service 3
- Miscellaneous
- Non-Injury Accident
- Disturbance / Jail
- Disturbance
- Traffic Complaint
- Traffic Complaint
- Traffic Complaint
- Non-Injury Accident
- Burglary

Saturday, November 2

- Traffic Stop 1
- Traffic Complaint
- Miscellaneous
- Disabled Vehicle
- Alarm
- Burglary

- NW 50 St & NW 10 Ave, Kingman
- SW 70 St & SW 30 Ave, Spivey
- 120 N spruce St, Kingman
- 1100 Blk NE 10 St, Murdock
- 3200 E Hwy 54, Kingman
- SW 30 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman

- NE 10 St & E Hwy 54, Kingman
- NE 10 Ave & NE 170 Ave, Cheney
- 11000 Blk SE 60 St, Murdock
- 4000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
- 6200 Blk NW 50 St, Kingman
- 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
- 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

- 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
- SW 40 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
- 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
- 200 Blk W Burns Ave, Norwich
- NE 40 Ave E Hwy 54, Kingman
- 1600 Blk S Main St, Kingman
- 8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
- 6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
- 4900 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman

- NE 10 St & NE 150 Ave, Cheney
- 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
- 10000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
- 13000 Blk SE 60 St, Norwich
- 16000 Blk NE 20 St, Cheney

Our History

While teaching history at Skyline I encouraged my students to learn their family history. I'm writing this on the day before the vote for the 2024 election. I have no idea how the vote will go. Whatever the results, our decision will be long written in our history books.

No member of our families has ever voted about whether we will give up our freedom or not. Whatever the results, I think those supporting Mr. Trump should know the impact you have had on your non-MAGA neighbors. Last Tuesday as Kathy and I were headed to Kansas City, we

were harassed on the I-35 highway. North of Emporia a large PU with a diesel tank in the bed terrorized us on the road. When he passed us, the young man must have seen the Kamala/Walz sign in the back window. When we tried to follow him around a slow truck, he slowed so we couldn't pass. He blocked us in so we couldn't pass and made us drop back and wait till he finally passed the truck and slowed till we finally passed the truck and then him.

As we passed him his window came down and we didn't know what was going to come out of the window. Would it be a gun? It wasn't a gun but

an angry hand flipping us off. After this he tailgated us for about 10 miles. He would come up close and then drop back doing this for the 10 miles till he finally left the highway at the 176 exit of Homewood. I called 911 and had a conversation with a highway patrolman. I gave him the tag number of the truck and filed a complaint.

I think this is a good example of the stress the Trumpies have been putting on their no-Trump neighbors for years. We have seen the anger and violence (January 6th) that MAGA's have shown nationally and, to a lesser extent, here, by vandalizing and stealing

signs. Some of you reading this will be gloating about this. Others might be surprised about it.

We have an exit plan. I know Kathy and I have put ourselves in the crosshairs of the scopes or the AK 47's. If Trump is elected, we know we will be in danger here in Cunningham. Even if Trump loses, the threat of violence will still be there. It's happened before. Many Harris supporters (the enemy within) think the way to stay safe is to leave the country. With Trump's threats of revenge and retribution can you doubt the concerns?

As I stated earlier, we are making history,

and I hope for the best history but not ruling out the worst possible consequences. As I was writing this contribution Kathy saw on Facebook that a friend in Kingman

had her yard invaded last night and her Kamala signs painted with FU. Is this how we will live from now on?

- Alan Albers-

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© StatePoint Media  
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always."*  
— Mahatma Gandhi

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Famous Actors

**CROSSWORD**

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65				66	67		68				
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ACROSS

- QA's focus, pl.
- "Swan Lake" steps
- Evite request, acr.
- Long stories
- Final, abbr.
- Opposite of neo-
- Synagogue scroll
- Poseidon's domain
- One-eighty
- \*Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp
- \*Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich
- Kum Ba follower
- Cry out loud
- Stolen, slangily
- Greek salad cheese
- Popular clubs of the 1970s
- Chimpanzees, e.g.
- Porcine fat
- Great divide
- Cat o'how many tails?
- Podium, pl.
- Dead against
- Work the dough
- Urban haze
- Manner of walk
- Parlor piece
- Riyadh native, e.g.
- Sixth note
- Common fairway club
- Brewed beverage
- \*"Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela
- \*Ricky Bobby and Buddy
- Beat the Joneses
- Outrage
- Adjust, as laces
- Tears violently

DOWN

- Between Phi and Kappa
- Second word in a fairytale
- Encircle
- Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.
- Boot-wearing feline
- Draft pick
- Impolite look
- Miles per hour, e.g.
- Insult
- Between bleu and jaune
- Connection between brain and spinal cord
- Bundle of wheat
- Like certain libraries
- Pup
- Hemingway's "The \_\_\_ Man and the Sea"
- Railyard worker
- \*Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan
- Offer two cents
- Doctrine
- New Mexico town
- Deep pile carpet
- Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.
- Ostium, pl.
- \*Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall
- Center of authority
- "The New Look" main character
- September stone

45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology

- Time period
- \*Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson
- Vidalia one
- Regions
- \*Han Solo and Indiana Jones
- Wished undone
- Europe's highest volcano
- \*Nelson, star of 8 films with Jeanette MacDonald
- Matted wool
- Write on tombstone, e.g.
- Facebook button
- More is \_\_\_?
- Duran Duran's 1982 album

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## Minutes from the Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 28, 2024 at 2:00 pm in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas w Jones iii, rick Shriver, Dwight Adams, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and mark graber, IT director.

Heather morgan, economic development/covid consultant, reported she worked with the city of Sawyer and drafted a letter to the KCC concerning the gas pipeline issue. She contacted Woody's new owner and they are interested in

the grant to help get the building renovated. It is a dollar-for-dollar match grant.

Chairman Shriver signed the approved contract with Spyglass.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to hire Gayla Godfrey for part time appraiser at \$55.00 per hour. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Voss presented non-renewal letters from EMC on informational surveys they are requiring on the buildings. She was instructed to contact Strong's Insurance for information on who to get to inspect.

Vicki Mader, Horizon

Mental Health, gave an update on services and financials in Pratt County.

Darcie Vander Vyver, health, presented a quote from Home Lumber for carpet throughout her entire building in the amount of \$9,782.14. She presented numbers from the health fair. Updated flu information. Commissioner Adams made a motion to purchase carpet for the entire building from home Lumber for \$9,782.14. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

They will be attending a health summit, October 30 and October 31. Their office will be closed those days.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session for ten minutes at 2:31 p.m. for an attorney/cli-

ent matter. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 2:41 p.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Rich Sanders, Gary Barker and Kelly Simon, with Township 12, wanted to visit about the proposed solar farm and potential payments. Tyson stated there will be contracts in the near future. Rich stated that Township 12 should be in on the conversations when the solar farm agreements are presented. Tyson stated the solar farm company does not have to make any contributions to the county. Township 12 would like a share of those payments.

Terry Williamson, asked if there was a plan to bring the population back up in Pratt County. He has visited with rural economic development. He questioned how we get new businesses to come to Pratt. He tried to get a fly-in event and the airport told him they couldn't accommodate that number of planes. He had a number of ideas to help bring businesses and people to Pratt. He was encouraged to attend the Pratt Area Economic Development meetings.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes at 3:32 p.m. for an attorney/client matter concerning multiple issues. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones

made a motion to return from executive session at 3:44 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to give Tyson authority to spend up to \$500 for additional services in the tax delinquent issue. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for October 28, 2024. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn at 3:52 pm. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## Letters TO THE Editor

Dear Editor,

In my favorite Harry Potter movie, Neville stood up to Harry, Ron, and Hermione telling them that they were wrong to break the school rules to go out and save their friends. As it turned out they went out anyway, broke the rules and saved the day.

When Dumbledore distributed points for

bravery at the end of the adventure he also gave 5 points to Neville. The 5 points were given to Neville for the fact that it's difficult to oppose a stranger when you think they are wrong, but it is much more difficult to confront a friend when you think they are wrong.

I feel that this response to Karen's letter is that! I've had a long and good relationship with the author and her husband. I've also been a friend of both of their families for

over 50 years. But she is wrong.

For the level of abuse and perversions going on as she presents, it would be impossible to go on without the perverted acts by school nurses, librarians, teachers and school administrators. I've known dozens of school nurses going back to Kathy and my time at the Red Cloud Indian School to 15 years of working in 7 schools here as a para, teacher and teacher/administrator.

Because the author has homeschooled her children, she may not have known of the regulations regarding actions for student health. A school nurse can't even give a student an aspirin without calling a parent or guardian to get permission and then only after the parent or guardian had signed a paper at the start of the year that gave that permission. At Sharon with the Special Education kids we often had to say no

to a kid with a headache until we could get the responsible person on the phone. These professionals who have dedicated their lives to student welfare should be insulted by these accusations.

I feel that these slanders are very similar to the groundless claims of 8 plus years ago that Hillary Clinton had some connection to a pizza restaurant in New York that was sex trafficking children in the basement. When a vigilante with

an AR 15 rifle entered the place, he only found eating customers and workers and the fact that the restaurant didn't even have a basement.

I find it interesting that Democrats are always the bad guys in these myths. Conspiracy theories are rampant right now and I challenge anyone to produce facts from a reliable source that this is anything other than the worst of them. -

Alan Albers

## Insight

### Presence from Ireland

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

On a recent trip to Ireland, our AirBnB host, Morgan, was shocked at the schedule my friends and I had put together. We had plans to see iconic places in all corners of the island over a five-day stretch. Drive times were only a few hours total, which seems normal to me as the island is smaller than Kansas.

Morgan, like any good rural citizen, was so excited to share recommendations of beautiful

sites and great culture in the area. Similar to many folks in the Midwest, he had pride in his local area and wanted us to see what made it so great. It was understandable that he was disappointed we weren't going to take time to explore the area and really experience his corner of rural Ireland.

Our approach to the trip was very American as we wanted to see a little bit of everything — somewhat like a travel sampler platter. We wanted to visit all the iconic and historical sites that are on popular must-see lists.

We knew packing the big stops in would take flexibility so we only booked items that required advanced tickets

like tours. On our first day in country we had two tours booked to help keep us moving so we could adjust to the time difference and avoid jet lag.

Time was not on our side that day. Parking took much longer than expected, which probably had a lot to do with unfamiliar signage and my extra caution during this first experience of driving on the left side of the road. Then our 45 minute tour led by a student at Trinity College lasted an hour and a half. This was a bit of a preview of many encounters with the Irish, who are delightfully chatty. That is great for conversation and bad for schedules.

The second tour was

rocky from the start. A Halloween parade was causing chaos in the area we were to meet our guide. When we finally started our tour, it lasted an hour longer than advertised but we didn't mind because the host shared wonderful stories of growing up in a historic city and gave us a taste of the Irish gift of Blarney.

Our journey was filled with wild beauty from the Cliffs of Moher to Giants Causeway. We expanded our cultural understanding at UNESCO World Heritage sites and enjoyed Irish music and folk dancing. We experienced local food and drink at pubs along the way.

Over the five days we

spent zipping around the island, it became clear that Morgan may have been right about us needing to slow down and not try to do too much. Each day we encountered things that slowed us down from restroom breaks to pharmacy stops and unexpected photo shoots when the view was breathtaking or a perfect double rainbow appeared suddenly.

It didn't take long to learn that our group moved slow; we savored experiences and relished the present. When I stopped worrying about checking places off my list, it created space and freedom for us all to enjoy the present.

We still probably wouldn't meet Morgan's

idea of a proper holiday but we lived in the moment appreciating the experiences happening now instead of worrying about the things we had to skip. This trip proved goals and ambition are great but there are more important and enjoyable parts of life than exhausting your energy checking boxes.

And now I have a great reason to make the trip to watch the K-State Wildcats next August.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

## KANSAS WHEAT

### Wheat Scoop: Entries for the 2025 National Festival of Breads Open November 1

Just in time for home bakers to experiment over the holidays, entries for the 2025 National Festival of Breads will open on November 1. The biennial competition invites amateur bakers to showcase their baking skills with original recipes.

“The National Festival of Breads is a beloved tradition that helps to celebrate and preserve the tradition of baking bread at home,” said Cindy Falk, Kansas Wheat nutrition educa-

tor and co-director of the National Festival of Breads. “We look forward to seeing the baking skills and creativity of this year's competitors.”

The Festival of Breads was started 34 years ago by the Kansas Wheat Commission, the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Wheathearts, a women's auxiliary group of wheat growers. The contest was designed to honor the art of baking, encourage the use of Kansas products and recognize the Kansas wheat and milling industries. The contest went national in 2009, and has received submissions and had champions from all over the United States.

Entries for the 2025 contest will be accepted online from November 1, 2024, through January 16, 2025. Winners and

other awards will be announced online on the National Festival of Breads website and social media on June 4, 2025. Category winners will each receive a \$1,000 check and a baking prize bundle. Honorable mention winners will receive a check for \$100.

The contest is open to adult home bakers, 18 years or older, who submit an original recipe and photo in the online entry system. Recipes must state the brand and type of flour used and make one or more loaves or at least one dozen rolls, scones, muffins, biscuits, etc. No sourdough recipes will be accepted; all recipes must have 10 or fewer ingredients. Read the full rules at national-festivalofbreads.com.

This year's contest includes two categories — quick bread and yeast

bread.

Quick bread is defined as recipes made without yeast and with a leavening agent (baking powder or baking soda), which allows for immediate baking after preparation. Examples include muffins, scones, soda bread, tortillas, coffee cakes, pancakes, fritters, dumplings, fruit and nut breads, waffles, beer bread, biscuits and more.

Yeast breads are made with yeast (instant, active dry, bread machine yeast, etc.) and most often use bread flour, high-protein flour, all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour or a combination of flours. Examples include sweet or savory breads and rolls, Dutch oven breads, holiday breads and fancy braids, sandwich loaves and more.

Select recipes will

be baked and evaluated in the test kitchen at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center by Falk and a team of experts before winners are selected and announced on June 4, 2025.

“The National Festival of Breads is not just a competition; it's a celebration of the joy of baking,” Falk said. “Whether you are a seasoned baker or just starting your baking journey, the festival is the perfect

place to share your spin on a family favorite, try something new over the holidays or just experiment in the kitchen. We can't wait to see what you come up with!”

Find inspiration from previous winners, read the full rules and enter the National Festival of Breads: <https://national-festivalofbreads.com/>

Written by Julia Debes for Kansas Wheat





## KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

### Graham

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Graham is an Australian Shepherd, Shetland Sheepdog mix. He is about 1 year old and weighs about 23 pounds.

The cutest dog EVER! They've said that before, but this time they really mean it! He's only 23 pounds of adorableness and full grown. (this statement does not come with a guarantee). Graham is full of energy and very playful. He can be a little jumpy and little mouthy, but he learns quickly. He is good with cats and other dogs. He likes people and is somewhat housetrained.

He has been at the shelter since October 3 and his adoption fee is \$200.00

## Mymom

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



This little lady is about 2 years old and weighs 8 to 9 pounds. Mymom has been at the shelter since July 30 and her adoption fee is only \$40.00.



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, from 8:00 - 5:30 (except during lunch 12-1) on Wed., from 8:00 - 12:00 Call for Saturday hours. 1015 East U.S. 54, Kingman, KS

## More Eagle Photos



"There is an eagle in me that wants to soar, and there is a hippopotamus in me that wants to wallow in the mud"

— Carl Sandburg

photos by Josh Theis

**Darren Parker w/ Art of Ahs -Host**

Featuring these Amazing Artists, Vendors, Crafters & Business Owners!

ButterBee Boutique  
Rae J Creations LLC  
Casey's Creations  
Flour Girls/Flower Girls  
Wawa Crafts  
Fifth Street Design  
Bead Creation's by Rhonda  
The Rustic Wagon  
Wool & Whisk  
Bri'Ton Up  
Crowes Nest Creative  
Nana's Breads and Spreads  
Peggy Ellison  
LECreations  
Nights3DPrints  
Dedra's Designs  
Prairie Hare Paper Crafts  
Amanda's \$5. Bling  
Kelly's Kreations

**Lisa Morelan W/ Kopper Kactus Design Co. -Host**

Fonda's Acrylic Pour  
Wine BottleTherapy  
Garner's woodworking  
Quilts and more  
Bullets and Butterflies  
Fancy Filly Boutique  
Donna & Mitsi Crafts  
Bird Brain  
CozyKitty Treasures  
Heather Baril  
Wild Sunflowers  
Cards by Roberta Kobbe  
TLCreations  
Totes of Happiness  
L & E Breads  
Baby Blu Bird  
Center Point Church  
Art by Celia  
WTF Whats that Fragrance  
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The Kingman County Commission minutes were not available this week at press time.


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## Bill Howell

Billy Gayle Howell, 81, passed away peacefully at his home on October 27, 2024. He was born on January 8, 1943 to Alfred (Bud) and Mary (Fankhauser) Howell at the family homestead. Billy was number six of ten children born to Bud and Mary and carried their values throughout his life.

Bill attended Croft Elementary School and graduated from Coats High School in 1960. He attended Pratt Junior College and Emporia Teacher College, majoring in civil engineering before being asked to help his father with the family farm. Bill also served in the Kansas National Guard.

Bill married Jean L Nixon on January 22, 1966. They lived in Emporia while attending school and then in Pratt. In 1977, they moved to the Howell family farm. He was the third generation on the original family land and raised his two daughters, Tava and Holly there. Bill and Jean were married for 58 years.

Bill was a farmer and rancher of the H-Bar Ranch. He began raising registered Angus with his dad in the 1970's, and continued with his daughters. With Jean, they raised primarily Suffolk and Hampshire lambs that started as a 4-H project that they sold and showed across the country. Bill was a lifelong supporter of the Pratt County 4-H program and the Pratt County Fair. He was an active member of the Southwest 4-H Club, and was one of the first exhibitors that started the horse project. He served on the Pratt County Fair Association, volunteered as Beef and Sheep Superintendent and contributed in a multitude of ways when he could. The Pratt County Fair was a week of memories with his family and its importance he passed to his granddaughters, Gillian and Grace.

Bill was a member of the Coats Baptist Church. Bill also served on the Pratt County Conservation Board, was a member of the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Angus Association, and the Ninescah Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association. Bill had many hobbies including gardening, canning, wood-working, traveling and supporting his granddaughters in their school and 4-H activities.

Bill is survived by his wife, Jean; daughters, Tava (Mike) Goetz of Lawrence and Holly Howell of Pratt. He is the proudest Papa of Gillan Swindler and Grace Swindler. Additional survivors include siblings; Mary Ryan of Gold Hill, Colorado, Sue (Ed) Bateman of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kay (Mike) Sewell of Pratt and Larry (Debbie) Howell of Garden Plain along with numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Harold Howell, Monita Westerman, Betty Kenworthy, Ron Howell and Tom Howell.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will begin at 1:00pm on January 25, 2025 at the Pratt County Fairgrounds.

Memorials may be made to the Pratt County 4-H Foundation in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt.

## Marvin Cockrell

Marvin Earl Cockrell, 83, died Oct. 29, 2024, at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman, Ks.

He was born June 27, 1941, at Kingman, the son of Riley and Myra Work Cockrell. A longtime resident of Zenda, he was a farm hand, truck driver and salvage dealer.

He is survived by his sister Iva May Thorne. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Delbert and Donald Cockrell; and daughter Teresa Cockrell.

Marvin loved rodeos, reading (especially Louis L' Amour books) and watching Western TV programs and movies.

Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, 2024 at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.

## Sterling College hosts "Doomscroll Snack" Art Exhibition

Art can be more than just nice to look at it. Art can carry a message as well.

The current exhibit at the Sterling College Art/Media Center Gallery does both. Guest artist Joshua Cross's art series entitled "Doomscroll Snack" brings a message of overindulgence, mindless scrolling, and the reminder to put the devices down occasionally. The exhibit will run from November 8 through the end of the semester, December 13.

When asked about the title for his mixed media art series, Cross gave a two-part answer on each half of the title. "When I heard the word 'doomscroll' for the first time, I thought it was a perfect description of the act of sitting on our phones mindlessly looking at not much of anything," he said.

Cross continued, "The



'snack' part comes from how I think people (and myself) approach doomscrolling- we think 'I'll just check in on social media or read the headlines'...just a little bite - a snack. Next thing you know your 'snack' has turned into eating an entire meal plus dessert. We overindulge."

Building on the theme of overindulgence and mindlessness on our devices, the meaning behind this series is in the form of a reminder for us to take a break from scrolling and have interactions with one another in person and not simply online. Cross said, "Most everything online is curated (especially social media) and that most of life should be taken

with a grain of salt and a pause."

One of his pieces which Cross highlighted out of his series is called Kings Play Cards on Fat Green Stool. "It came together in a surprising way," he continued, "I found some random bits in antique stores and it's like they were saying, 'Put me in that piece you don't really like.' So, I did...and now I quite like it."

Cross hopes his audience will walk away from his exhibit being reminded that we all do the same things, despite the surface-level differences and that there is a benefit to giving more attention to the similarities we have with one another.

In creating his art, Cross talked about how his greatest challenge was not giving away too much on his series. "People should have room to interpret, but a little background from the source is good, too," he said.

Cross also revealed, "With this series of work, I started to really get comfortable with not being comfortable and being willing to trust the

process and work through it all. And that has been a long time coming."

He added that he hopes that people will be able to relate to his work and that everyone has skills and talents that make us human.

"I am as interested in how folks interpret my work than the ideas I had when making the pieces. So, I hope folks will come to the show and share those interpretations with me. Good, bad, or indifferent. It is all worthwhile," he said.

Cross has been the art professor at Hesston College for the past three years. He received his undergraduate degree in art from Southeast Missouri State University and his MFA in painting from Kansas State University.

His "Doomscroll Snack" exhibit runs through December 13 and is open to the public at no charge. The Sterling College Art/Media Center Gallery, 306 West Washington, Sterling, is open weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Reception and Artist Talk date will be announced later.

## "It's a Wonderful Life Photos

(continued from front page)



Top photo: Cody Dunlap, Mary Stackhouse

Top photo: Eric and Nicole Kerschen

Bottom photo: Dave Steffen, Erick Kerschen, Amanda Prim, Mary Stackhouse, John Huffman

Bottom photo: Bob Stackhouse

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